

Montana and the Sky



Vol. 41, No. 6

MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION

June 1990

AERO BOARD DISCUSSES DOT, AVIATION ISSUES

The Montana Aeronautics Board held a regular meeting in Helena June 6 - 7, 1990. Topics of discussion were wide ranging and included updates on Division operations along with current aviation issues.

Bureau Chiefs Fred Hasskamp and Jerry Burrows outlined for the Board the activities in their bureaus since the last meeting. Included with Burrows' report was an update on the coming operating season at Yellowstone Airport. Division Administrator Mike Ferguson also outlined his recent activities and meetings attended.

The Board discussed the proposed state Department of Transportation. Board Chairman Sig Ugrin has been appointed to sit on an eleven-member DOT Advisory Committee which includes representatives from

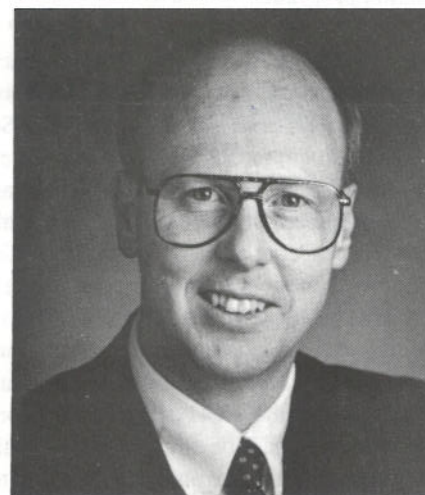
the various affected agencies, the chairmen of the House and Senate Transportation Committees, the state Chamber of Commerce, and the Montana Ambassadors. The Committee held hearings throughout Montana June 11 and 12 to receive input from the general public prior to structuring of the new department.

Martha Kurtz, Division administrative assistant, updated the Board on the upcoming budgeting process. It was noted the fuel tax revenue, the primary source of Division income, is down considerably from last year's total. In response to a request, the airlines serving the state have provided the Division with a total of fuel purchased in the state during the past year. This information will be valuable in

(Continued on Page 7)

AN INTRODUCTION TO CHUCK BROOKE

Chuck Brooke was appointed director of the Montana Department of Commerce by Governor Stephens in April of 1990.



Brooke's experience in government includes service as director of the Montana Lottery, executive assistant to the Secretary of State, and chief of staff for the Missoula County Commissioners.

In the private sector, he owned and operated one of Montana's largest full-service advertising agencies and has served as a public relations and marketing consultant to a number of prominent Montana businesses and public officials.

Chuck graduated from high school in Chinook and earned both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Political Science from the University of Montana in Missoula.



Chuck Brooke, director of the Department of Commerce, visits with the Aeronautics Board during their meeting June 6 - 7. In photo (from left): Howard Gipe, Kalispell; George Teslovick, Great Falls; Brooke; Al Cochrane, Bigfork; and Pete Pederson, Glasgow.

Administrator's Column

Aviation User Trust Fund. As of May the Aviation Users Trust Fund reached \$14.1 BILLION, of which only \$7.6 BILLION is obligated. The House Public Works investigation and oversight subcommittee has met with Department of Transportation and the General Accounting Office as well as user organizations to discuss the issue of increasing user fees. This is not sitting well among the users and many of our U.S. representatives and senators. Some Congressmen are expressing strong concern over the Administration's attempt to raise user fees without any guarantee that the existing BILLIONS now in the User Trust Fund will be spent for its intended purpose. One Congressman likened the whole Aviation User Trust Fund management as a twenty-year "charade" while another stated that it (the legislation) is D.O.A. (dead on arrival) at the Hill. We have all known that this User Trust Fund is being held hostage to help balance the federal budget, and this fact was recently admitted to by the DOT's assistant secretary for budget and programs during testimony before the House investigations and oversight subcommittee. It appears that most agree that they better not be asking for more money until they can demonstrate their ability to properly manage and spend down the existing surplus for its intended purpose. Just recently the Aviation Subcommittee approved repealing the penalty clause for the User Trust Fund and also approved 75% of the FAA's operations cost to be taken from the trust fund. There is strong opposition to these actions; however, the chairman of the subcommittee stated that an amendment could be introduced later to reinstate the penalty clause. The present penalty clause penalizes the FAA two dollars of trust fund operations money for every dollar which they underspend in the capital programs.

VA Flight Training. Congress enacted legislation late last year which will provide up to 60% assistance to pilots who already hold their private license and wish to upgrade their license to seek a career in aviation. Senator Daschle of South Dakota has introduced an amendment to this act which, if successful, will increase benefits to those seeking a private pilot license and will allow veterans who began active duty after 1974 to qualify. The present bill limits veteran benefits only to those who began active duty after June 30, 1985. The Department of Veterans Affairs and the Paralyzed Veterans of America have cautioned about previous program abuses in the area of solo flight training and that the majority of those trained did not lead to the intended goal of an aviation career. The AOPA, NATA, and the American Legion strongly support Sen. Daschle's amendment. The Veterans Administration is gearing up to start the flight training program again, and it appears that those 141 certified operators who were previously approved to provide the training will again be eligible with very little red tape. It is anticipated that the VA will again appoint the Aeronautics Division to be the approving agency for Montana.

Vivienne Schrank Retires. It was a happy as well as a sad day when Vivienne decided to end her flying career and part with her beloved Piper PA-12 - N3381 "Mike." When Vivienne decided to give up flying, she was concerned about finding a good home for "Mike." She was very selective about who should have the beautiful, pampered little Family Cruiser and finally selected the Dove family from Missoula. Carla Dove, a pilot and, like Vivienne, a 99s member, will actually be the proud new owner; but we all know who the proud new father is - yes, Carla's father John - and I fully expect to see John flying the PA-12 to some of the aviation events in the near future. Vivienne held up well during the brief ceremony of transferring the bill of sale to John, but I'm sure she recalled many, many happy and joyful memories as she watched her beautiful little "Mike" fly off into the western horizon on that May 21 afternoon. Look at it this way, Vivienne - you didn't really lose your beloved little airplane - you inherited the Dove family! (See photos on Page 7.)



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VO TECH STUDENT WINS TOOL SCHOLARSHIP



Jim Little, recent Helena Vo Tech graduate, is congratulated by Mike Ferguson and awarded a \$250 Aeronautics Division tool scholarship. Little was selected to receive the scholarship by the faculty at the Vo Tech based upon his outstanding performance in the aviation maintenance curriculum. He is originally from Bozeman and has recently accepted a position with Continental Express in Cleveland, Ohio.



FOLLOW THE RULES FOR BORDER CROSSINGS

AOPA is urging pilots to make sure they carry proper documentation on their persons and in their aircraft at all times because of recent actions taken by U.S. Customs Service agents.

At least two owners have had their aircraft seized recently by Customs agents after alleged violations of federal statutes. Customs and Drug Enforcement Administration agents may seize an aircraft or take civil penalty action when these statutes are violated. Many of the statutes parallel FARs. The actions, including seizure, can occur as a result of something as simple as not carrying a current medical certificate.

As a reminder as to what paperwork is required on board the aircraft, remember ARROW - Airworthiness certificate, Registration, Radio station license, Operations handbook, and Weight and balance information. All pilots must also carry pilot and medical certificates.

COLUMBUS FLY- IN PLANNED FOR AUGUST 18

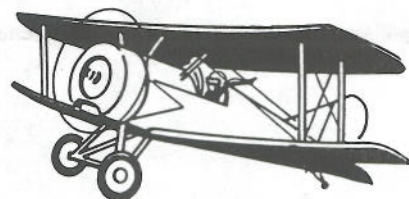
The annual Columbus Fly-In and Hangar Dance will be held August 18 at the Columbus Airport.

Flour bombing and spot landing contests will be held. A steak fry will precede the evening hangar dance.

Contact Allen Rickman at 322-5974 for more information.

CALENDAR

- June 29** - AOM Board Meeting, Helena.
- July 6 - 8** - Family Fly-In Flight Safety Expo, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.
- July 14** - Aircraft swap meet/flea market at Laurel Airport.
- July 20 - 22** - Schafer Meadows Work Session.
- July 27 - Aug. 2** - EAA Fly-In Convention, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.
- Aug. 1 - 9** - Alberta Aviation Council's Air Tour '90 through Montana.
- Aug. 3 - 5** - MAAA Fly-In, Three Forks.
- Aug. 11** - Malmstrom AFB Air Show.
- Aug. 12** - Harlowton Boy Scout Benefit Fly-In, Breakfast and Airplane Wash.
- Aug. 18 - 19** - Fly-In at Yellowstone Airport.
- Aug. 18** - Columbus Annual Fly-In and Hangar Dance.
- Aug. 23 - 26** - Big Sky Air Show, Billings.
- Sept. 6 - 7** - Aeronautics Board Meeting, Yellowstone Airport, West Yellowstone.
- Sept. 21 - 23** - Mountain Search Pilot Clinic, Kalispell.
- Oct. 5 - 7** - MFF Convention, Kalispell.
- Feb. 27 - March 2, 1991** - Montana Aviation Conference, Outlaw Inn, Kalispell.



YELLOWSTONE EAA SPONSORS FLY-IN

Chapter 57 of the Experimental Aircraft Association will be sponsoring a fly-in at Laurel Airport July 14.

The fly-in will consist of a brunch and flea market for aviation related items only.

Brunch will be served from 0900 - 1300 at a cost of \$3 per person. The flea market will run from 0900 - 1700 with a \$20 vendor fee required. Items may also be placed on consignment.

A limited number of tiedowns are available, so visitors are encouraged to bring their own.

For further information contact Pat Kenney, Chapter 57 president, at 245-5246 in Billings.

MOVING?

Each time a newsletter must be returned to us because of a wrong address, we pay the Post Office 30¢. Returning charts and directories costs us even more. If you are moving, please take a little time to fill out the form below and mail it to us. It'll save both time and money!

NAME (Please Print) _____

NEW ADDRESS _____

NEW PHONE NUMBER _____

BENCHMARK WORK SESSION IMPROVES CAMPGROUND



Campfire coffee and conversation were all part of the work session held May 19 - 20 at the Benchmark Airport.



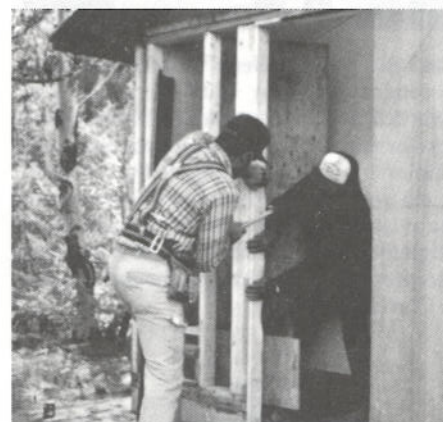
Vigilante Hangar president Ted Beck, Helena, brought his tractor and "bush hog" to help with heavy rock hauling and brush clearing. Tractors are not as much fun as airplanes, but boys do enjoy playing with those big toys!



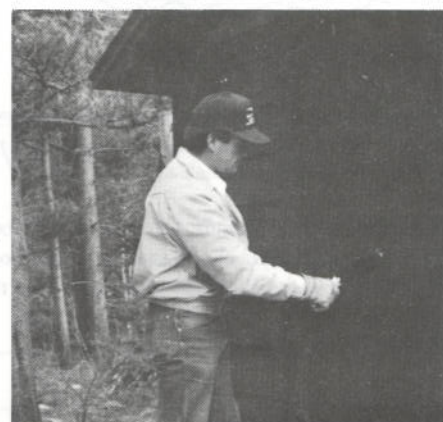
These are the project supervisors!



Fence painters are Dave Gates (left) and Jim Ellis, both from Great Falls. Gates is state MPA president. The campground has been improved during work sessions the past year by volunteers and in cooperation with the Montana Aeronautics Division.



Jim Bair (left) and Ed Douthit, Great Falls, work on the door frame of the outhouse at Benchmark Airport campground. The door was altered to allow handicapped access.



Is Greg Riggin going in to try it out??? Or is he installing a door handle? Greg is from Great Falls.

YELLOWSTONE CREW HAS AIRPORT IN FULL SWING



The Skywest Airlines crew is eager to serve with three flights a day - June through September. From left above they are: Tina Spangler, station manager; Dave Donkersgoed, Ashly Eames, Erica Hutchings, and Cheryl Axford. Please give Skywest a call to help with your travel plans to Yellowstone Park and surrounding areas.



Airport Cafe operator Dave Powell and assistant Frankie Derby stand ready to hang their new sign in the terminal building. A large breakfast menu and varied luncheon dishes, including Oriental, Mexican, and American fare, are among the many reasonably priced treats available.



Darren Kaighn, firefighter supervisor at Yellowstone Airport, repairs broken runway light. Operating the airport's fire trucks, training volunteers in fire protection and emergency procedures, and generally keeping the airport in good condition are among Darren's many duties.



Blaine Meissner, Aeronautics Division, helps Darren Kaighn install a new windsock at the Interagency fire control center on the Yellowstone Airport.

BAKER NDB

By: Jerry Burrows
Chief, Airport/Airways Bureau

A standard instrument approach procedure (SIAP) is a step closer as a result of a meeting with technicians and other officials at the Baker NDB site adjoining the airport.

The FAA ground inspection team - Herbert Zwygart, Seattle; Ray Lachmund and Vern Harris, Billings - worked with Bob Brenner, the FAA certified technician responsible for the station. Mike Rogan and I provided some antenna modifications to improve the station's performance and reliability. Helmut Straub, airport manager, coordinated our activities and provided local support.

Additional test equipment and transmitter checkout will be accomplished this month. The flight test will be rescheduled later this summer. The FAA estimates that the air traffic coordination, IFR airspace, and final approval will take another four months.



Herbert Zwygart, FAA technician, talks with flight check aircraft while Mike Rogan, Aeronautics Division, and Helmut Straub, Baker Airport manager, look on.

YOUR SHOULDER HARNES

IF YOU'VE GOT IT—USE IT!

WISE RIVER AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE

**By: Redge Meierhenry
Aviation Representative**

The Wise River Airport has recently joined Montana's list of public use airports. As a service to our pilots, we provide the following information to enhance its use and safety.

The public airport construction was begun in 1988 by the Anaconda Conservation Corps in conjunction with their heavy equipment training program. The Corps is a federal training program for disadvantaged youth between the ages of 16 and 21. Forty-five acres of land were leased from nearby rancher Don Jones to Beaverhead County for 50 years for a nominal fee.

Many players subsequently became involved, such as Beaverhead County, Deer Lodge and Beaverhead National Forests, Bureau of Land Management, FAA, and the Montana Aeronautics Division.

Beaverhead County, through the airport board, invested in tiedown materials, fertilizing and seeding, work on the privy, fencing, and legal advice.

Deer Lodge and Beaverhead National Forests did the archeological examination, furnished engineering design and supervision expertise, and, of particular note, Swede Troedsson, Beaverhead Forest Aviation Officer, provided invaluable advice, assistance, and overall program coordination.

The Bureau of Land Management issued a free-use permit for fill material from a borrow pit adjacent to the airport, and the FAA Airports District Office provided engineering advice. The cast of players ends with the Montana Aeronautics Division providing the windsock and standard, marker cones, and a pilot registration board. As you can see, a real group effort went into this!

When flying to and from the new Wise River Airport, keep in mind the following:

1. Use right hand traffic for Runway 2. This is designated to avoid the ridge to the west and the turbulent air which can result from a strong westerly flow.

2. Wind allowing, take off to the north because of two factors. The first is a narrowing canyon with rising terrain to the south; and,

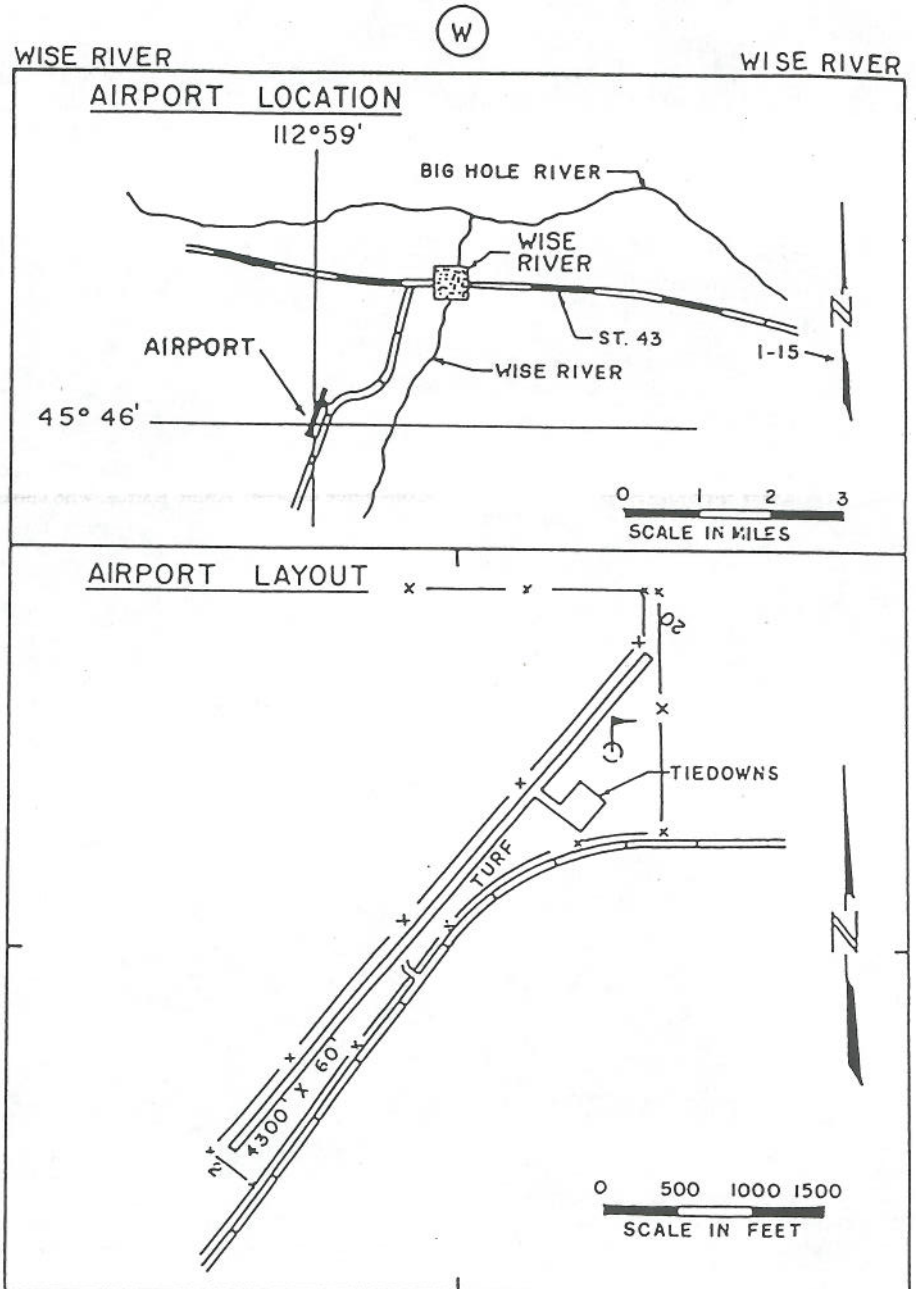
second, the runway has approximately a 2% downhill grade to the north.

3. Until grass cover is established, the runway, taxiway, and apron may be soft and muddy following rain. There is no snowplowing, so contact the airport manager, Don Jones, at 832-3219 for current conditions.

4. The fence off of each runway end has been made more visible by marking with yellow highway paint and reflectors. Approaches to each runway threshold are 20:1.

5. Telephone is on the field inside the new (and spacious outhouse). Local calls only can be dialed. Pilots should open and close flight plans in the air or use a normal toll telephone in town. Cafes in town, whose numbers are posted by the phone, are willing to pick up customers who fly in. The telephone will be disconnected annually from December 1 to April 1.

6. Pilots are requested to register. These records help in determining use and to support requests for maintenance funds.



FAA ISSUES CERTIFICATES

PRIVATE

Perry Breitbach	Circle
Donald Cameron	Billings
Michael Campbell	Marion
William Coughanour	Roscoe
Stephen Fox	Billings
Donald Gaumer	Missoula
Dennis Giese	Roundup
Kim Riley Hanson	Billings
Timber Harkins	Ekalaka
Gary Jeppesen	Shelby
Max Murphy	Wolf Creek
Luke Overstreet	Billings
Thomas Smail	Wolf Point

PRIVATE INSTRUMENT

Donald Woerner	Laurel
Troy Gaylor	Bridger
Gail Sanchez	Bozeman

COMMERCIAL INSTRUMENT

Nicholas Bohlinger	Billings
Dennis Lohse	Great Falls

MULTIENGINE

Thomas Granier	Great Falls
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COMMERCIAL HELICOPTER

John Martin	Browning
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ATP

James Korpi	Cascade
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INSTRUCTOR INSTRUMENT

Russell Dahl	Glasgow
David Flamand	Butte

INSTRUCTOR MULTIENGINE

David Simon	Butte
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INSTRUCTOR RENEW/ REINSTATE

John Archibald	Kalispell
Joseph Brand	Poplar
John Eliel	Wisdom
Michael Fielder	Missoula
Paul Grigsby	Missoula
Fred Hasskamp	Helena

David Healow	Billings
Edward Hoelscher	Billings
Gus Johnson	Missoula
Christopher Kolstad	Wolf Point
James Kurger	Lakeside
James Lowe	Great Falls
Robert Meadors	Great Falls
Jeffrey Morrison	Helena
Gary Palm	Missoula
Steven Sessums	Missoula
Jeffery Tyler	Anaconda

Aero Board Continued from page 1

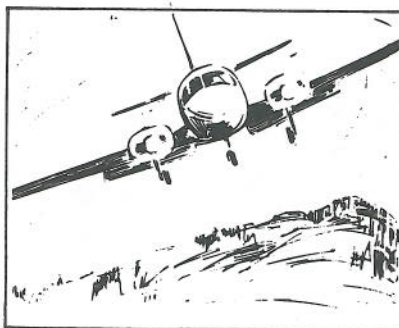
determining the amounts purchased by general aviation, airlines, and the military. Division staff has begun to work on budget for the 1992-93 biennium following guidelines set down by the state Office of Budget and Program Planning. The budget requests will be in place for the 1991 legislative session.

The Board also began an in-depth discussion of Chapter VIII of the Montana Aviation System Plan which lists recommendations by the consultant for Montana aviation system improvements. This discussion will continue at future meetings.

Special guests at the meeting were Commerce attorney Annie Bartos, who spoke to the Board about liability exposure and insurance coverage for Board members, and Chuck Brooke, director of the Department of Commerce, who outlined the progress to date on the proposed DOT. This was the first opportunity for Brooke to meet and visit with many of the Board members since his appointment.

The next meeting of the Aeronautics Board has been scheduled for September 6 - 7 at the Yellowstone Airport, West Yellowstone.

The public is always welcome to attend Board meetings.



VIVIENNE RETIREES



Vivienne Schrank turns the bill of sale on her Piper PA-12 over to John Dove, Missoula. John purchased Vivienne's Piper earlier this spring for his daughter Carla, who now lives in Bothell, Washington, and flew to Jordan on May 21 to pick it up and finalize the sale.



Vivienne says farewell to her Piper.

(See Administrator's column, Page 2.)

MORE DIRECTORY UPDATES

Anaconda Airport now has Jet A.
No fuel at Choteau until further notice.
New manager at Three Forks is Dave Miller,
phone 285-3412.

PAN AM WEATHER DEMO GOES WELL

By: Redge Meierhenry
Aviation Representative

The Pan Am WeatherMation satellite weather system is going very well, and the Division is now 2/3 of the way into our 90-day demonstration project. We have requested and are receiving very favorable comments from pilots throughout the state, and we continue to encourage your response to us.

The system is up and running at 99.4% reliability and is experiencing very heavy useage. We expected that the system would have heavy demand during the first two to three weeks of its introduction, and this has been so. What did surprise us, though, is that the system continues to receive approximately 300 to 350 calls per week, which is considered to be high use.

Given that there is only one WeatherMation station for Montana, there will be occasions when the 800 line is busy, so try back if you experience a busy signal. If you experience any sort of problems, you may call us (444-2506) or call Pan Am's customer service at 800-367-6602.

Far and away the most popular request is sequence reports, followed by terminal forecasts, radar summary reports, and en route briefings. After you use the system and review the pertinent reports, we advise a call to your Flight Service Station to discuss your flight with a weather briefer.

For the future, Montana Aeronautics will begin in earnest to gain local help in the way of management assistance and funds to establish additional WeatherMation stations throughout the state if demand continues as it is. Thus, we

look forward to hearing from you during this evaluation process with any ideas for system improvements.

All Pilots

All ELT transmissions are now reported to Search and Rescue by satellites.

Before start-up and after shut-down, tune your aircraft receiver to 121.5—your ELT may be transmitting.

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MEMBER

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE AVIATION OFFICIALS

PURPOSE—"To foster aviation, as an industry as a mode of transportation for persons and property and as an arm of the national defense; to join with the Federal Government and other groups in research, development, and advancement of aviation; to develop uniform laws and regulations; and to otherwise encourage cooperation and mutual aid among the several states."



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